

## A NEW CONFEDERATION.

### Energetic Endeavors Making to Unite the Five Republics of Central America.

### And Still the War Goes On in Earnest Between Nicaragua and Honduras.

NEW YORK, Jan. 3.—The world says that for the first time in many months the representatives of Guatemala, San Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa-Rica, whose meetings were long irregularly held in the old capital building in San Jose, in Guatemala, have been able to reach something like an understanding. At the final conferences, which will come very shortly and continue for some weeks, the new Confederate Republic of Central America, comprising the five independent states of this revolution-racked region, is expected to assume something like constitutional shape. The new constitution provides for a president with a term of four years. Senor D. Salinas, well known as the vice-president of the Nicaraguan senate, advocated a six-year term for the chief magistrate and ineligibility to re-election, and this provision may be embodied in the instrument. There is to be a senate composed of four members from each of the high contracting states, with a term of six years each. The popular branch of congress is to be chosen by universal suffrage. The judicial power will be like that in this country. Meanwhile, preparations for the assembling of delegates are actively making and Senor J. Leizaola, the most influential Costa Rican that ever represented his country in Salvador, has formally extended an invitation to President Duran of the San Salvador chamber of deputies to visit the Guatemalan capital. In the latter place Vice-President L. M. Flores has been formally receiving such of the foreign representatives as have been arriving.

The stately capitol buildings at San Jose, capital of Costa Rica, and at Nueva Guatemala, will thus become the theatre of most complicated intrigues before many weeks. It is Barrios should feel that the Ezeetas are outwitting him in the congress (which, by the way, numbers some forty members with deliberative authority) his only way to balk their schemes will be by unopposedly opposing federation. But his own power is now crumbling in the balance, and such Guatemalan leaders as President Salazar, of the supreme court, and General Mendizabel have come out in direct antagonism to the president. Guatemala is the most important of the countries involved, and whatever she does can hardly fail to decide the fate of the federation scheme. For about twenty-six years this nation has been a part of the Central American confederation of Central America, and the people of every country which was included within the federation have declined since its dissolution. Revolutions have come regularly. Commerce and trade no longer flourish.

Senor Jose Vargas, of Costa Rica, will, it is announced, proceed to Guatemala in the interests of federation, and the Congress is to urge hostility to the United States of America. This ardent gentleman was very bitter against this country during the Chilian imbroglio. He accuses Uncle Sam of being selfish and of asserting the Monroe doctrine from unworthy motives. His adherents in the Costa Rican chamber of deputies (a few of whom will go to San Jose this winter to vote for the new federal constitution) are likewise enemies of the North American eagle. Indeed, it is curious that this republic has manifested very little interest in the efforts of the five Central American governments to form a united nation.

The drift of opinion is that General Barrios will be made first president of the new republic. One of the Ezeetas would probably be given second place. But the trouble is that these rival leaders are so anxious for power that one would very unwillingly play second fiddle to the other. This fact has given rise to a moderate party, pledged to repudiate all present leaders and elect non-military officials under the federal constitution when it has finally been made the law of the land. In Honduras and in San Salvador, where the people are suffering from revolutionary adventures, this policy finds most favor. But these facts are both of minor importance.

The Herald's special cable from Managua, Nicaragua, says: Already Pollarco Bonilla, leader of the Honduran insurgents, has invaded Honduras from Nicaraguan soil, and captured the towns of Corpus and Yucatan, having set up a provisional government in the former place and President Zelaya, of Nicaragua, has recognized his authority. Bonilla's insurgent forces, aided by a body of Nicaraguans, captured Yucatan only this afternoon, and immediately President Zelaya issued a decree formally recognizing the provisional government of the victorious general. The provisional government was set up in the town of Corpus on December 30, the day on which that place was captured by Bonilla, after a five hours' siege.

President Vasquez's losses in that engagement were twenty-three men killed and five wounded. The invaders had two killed and several wounded. Bonilla's men are now surrounding Cholotea and cutting off communication. They made a desperate attempt to take Chantel, which was successfully defended by General Villalva. General Rosas was killed in this engagement. The besieging army has not given up hopes and will try it again. They are camped around the town, and are endeavoring to starve out Vasquez's troops.

President Vasquez's haughty challenge to Nicaragua in his decree of October 26 was accepted by the Nicaraguan army, and they decided to invade his territory and help Bonilla and his Honduras rebels. Three thousand Nicaraguan soldiers, commanded by General Ortez, occupied San Luis and Cinopino on December 24, awaiting Vasquez's threatened invasion of Nicaragua. Vasquez had reinforced his command by loyal troops from Cholotea and Corpus, and a battle near Cholotea seemed imminent. The invaders are now trying to gain possession of Amapala, and in the meantime Nicaragua is recruiting more troops to send to the frontier.

ALBANY, Jan. 3.—Right Rev. Francis McNeerly, bishop of Albany, died at 9:30 o'clock last night in this city from typhoid pneumonia.

## EUROPEAN PROSPECTS.

### London, Jan. 3.—In looking over an expert diagnosis of the military situation for the past five or six years it is curious to note the number of reasons given connected with the changing of weapons, completing fortresses and so on, for the belief that nobody would be ready to fight until 1894.

Every body studying Europe's vast preparations for a struggle seems to pitch upon this as the date when they will come naturally to a head. Throughout Europe there is estimated to be 1,300,000 more men under arms than a year ago. It is the expectation that when the end of 1894 comes around it will find an altered map. The strain is too heavy. Something must give way somewhere during the coming year. There is no exaggeration in speaking of this view as universal. So keen was the feeling in the case of the Emperor Dikie, who has been always heretofore in the habit of saying that the chances really were heavily against a war, has now changed his mind. This is true of other students of the French situation, less well known, but whose opinions are of great weight.

But not the wisest prophets can foresee the most characteristic feature of all which is the mission of 1894 to develop. That it is undoubtedly the fierce antipathia which has now taken such a powerful hold on the French mind. Englishmen who habitually visit France at midwinter return shaking their heads. While there has been no overt discourtesy, they have been conscious this time of an almost universal antipathy surrounding them as by a wall. All through what remains of the winter and increasingly so in the spring we may be prepared for a succession of war alarms much more definite and violent than any during recent years. Just at the moment Constantinople happens to be the centre of apprehension. Much of this, doubtless, turns upon the fear that Russia intends a sudden naval descent upon the Bosphorus and Dardanelles. All experts agree that Constantinople is practically unable to offer a defense against such a descent. The Turkish fleet is all laid up inside of the Inner Horn with their coal and munitions of war. The shore forts are quite antiquated and worthless. If Russia made such an attempt, a practical result would be a union of the Black sea and Mediterranean fleets, a total of eleven vessels, backed by ten French frigates, which makes twenty-one to offset England's thirteen in these waters. The space of a single fortnight might witness not only a seizure of Constantinople and its immediate defenses, but also a great naval battle.

Less spectacular, but quite as serious, is the international aspect of Greece's proposed repudiation of her debt. This is really the Greek financial problem really involves the Greek exterior gold loans amounting to over \$100,000,000 and chiefly held in England and Germany, are secured by hypothecating certain forms of international property. Greece simply proposes to annul these pledges and declare these assets available for Government uses instead. No doubt, with these public debts of \$80 per capita, the Greeks find this an extremely comfortable way out of the dilemma; but the London and Berlin Foreign offices have served a plain notice that no such thing will be permitted, and I know that steps to enforce this warning are being taken in the which officials here regard as a matter of extreme. Here also everything is felt to have been altered by the fact of the presence of the Russian warships in the Mediterranean.

## CHILIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—No official notification has been made to the members of the Chilian claims commission that the suggestion for the extension of the period of its legal existence has been denied by the government of Chili. The first official act of the commission when it met on the 9th of last October was to address a communication to the two governments calling attention to the fact that six months was a very brief period within which to transact the business committed to it. It is intimated that if the U. S. government is desirous of an extension of the career of the commission, its attitude toward that proposition has changed since the subject was first broached, at which time and later representatives of the United States were reported to be opposed to the extension. Favorable consideration thereof has been manifested only since December 3, after which date, according to the terms of the treaty, no claims could be filed. The docket then showed three claims filed against the United States and thirty-nine against Chili. The government of the latter country is also said to have undergone a change of opinion at about the same date with respect to the expediency and desirability of giving the commission further time. For whereas it was previously the understanding that Chili would authorize her minister here to agree to an extension, now it is reported she demands six months ample time for the commission to do its business. The effect of the extension is to extend the term of the commission, in the opinion of those connected with it, will be to put beyond any hope of determination all the claims not fully submitted by January 15.

## BRITISH PACIFIC CABLE.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—Very strong pressure is being brought to bear upon the Imperial Government on behalf of Canada to support the British Pacific cable project. It is strongly urged, in view of the fact that the French and the willingness of Canada and Australia to co-operate in the enterprise, that the British Government ought, on imperial grounds, to assist the project by some guarantee. Prospects of a favorable response to these solicitations are very doubtful. The budget outlook alone is probably sufficient of itself to make the treasury authorities extremely loth to undertake fresh endeavors of any kind. It is thought here, however, that the scheme will prove feasible, even if the Imperial Government decide to hold aloof.

## SIE SAMUEL W. BAKER.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—The body of Sir Samuel White Baker, the African explorer, who died on Saturday last, was reduced to ashes at the crematory to-day after a religious ceremony in the chapel. The body was placed in a retort. A number of relatives and friends were present.

## BRAZILIAN MATTERS.

### The Government's War Ships Under Orders—Bago Not Believed to Have Surrendered.

### Story of an Application for United States Interposition Emphatically Denied.

MONTEVIDEO, Jan. 4.—News from Rio de Janeiro is that Pelkoto has sent a dispatch to Toulon, France, ordering that his war vessels, the *Rebelion* and the *Benjamin Constant*, which are being built at that place, go to Pernambuco with all speed and join the fleet the President is gathering there.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—The steamer *Endeavor* arrived this morning from Brazilian ports. She left Rio on November 28. The captain reports there were daily conflicts between Mello's ships and the forts on shore. A great deal of firing took place at night, consequently it was impossible to see the effects of the shots or the amount of damage sustained. At the other end of the port the *Endeavor* made all was quiet when she left on December 16. At Pernambuco, which port the *Endeavor* left on December 16, the feeling was in favor of Mello. The *Nichero* was cruising outside the harbor. She was close to the Government vessel in the harbor when invited to do so. The English torpedo boat *Aurora* was coal-ling when the *Endeavor* left. Nothing had been heard of the shooting of the twelve cadets, said the captain.

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan. 4.—There is no important change in the situation here. Rumors have reached the city that the *Benjamin Constant* in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, which has been besieged by the insurgents for about a month, had finally capitulated, but these rumors are not confirmed by official dispatches received here. The loyal garrison of Bago consists of 1,200 troops, while the force besieging it numbers 2,000. The Government officials place no reliance whatever in the reports of the surrender of Bago, though they admit that the garrison there has probably been broken up by the long siege to which it has been subjected. At about the same time have been issued by the same officials reports that have taken place. Orders have been issued by the Minister of War for a force to proceed at once to the relief of the town. Acting under these orders General Eyppolite, commanding a column of two thousand six hundred men, today left Livramento for Bago. At about the same time General Sampaio, with 3,000 men, left Cerro Chato, his destination also being Livramento, 75 miles from Bago, while General Chaves, with 1,500 men, has been besieging town. Bago is an important place and the Government dispatches a strong force there in order to guard against any possibility of its falling into the hands of the insurgents.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—State department officials when asked in regard to an alleged despatch from Montevideo asserting that negotiations were in progress between President Pelkoto and Mr. Thompson, U. S. Minister to Brazil to end the Brazilian blockade of the intervention of the American fleet, said they were not recently giving in it. No such negotiations were going on, or had ever been contemplated. The story was of a piece with the alleged capture of Rio, and resignation of Pelkoto emanating from the same source some days ago.

## PREMIER GLADSTONE.

LONDON, Jan. 3.—Rt. Hon. Mr. Gladstone is visibly older than at the beginning of last year. He does not sit up at nights as he did, and since the Irish question was temporarily shelved Parliament exerts no extraordinary effort in regard to him as it did, on which account Home Rule will not be allowed to remain up in the air longer than it absolutely necessary.

Almost his only surviving school fellow at Eton, Lord Arthur Hervey, who is also Bishop of Bath and Wells, and nearly two years his senior, was being recently giving lots of reminiscences. When the Duke of Wellington opened the Waterloo bridge and distributed commemorative medals to the select invited spectators this time Bishop put his hand in the bag and started by giving the Duke of Wellington to take only one. The House of Commons contains only one member six years older than Gladstone, Hon. Charles Villiers, who has sat fifty-eight years for a single constituency. But when on rare occasions he visits the club, he can only go to the billiard table, owing to the steady friends cluster around his ears close to his mouth to catch his whispered mummings. Even older still is Admiral Jones of the Greenwich hospital, who bore part in the Walcheren expedition of 1809. Surely there is no other country where men live like this.

There has been observable during the past two months a marked softening of the feeling toward Mr. Gladstone on the part of the Tories. This change of feeling was well illustrated in the Commons when, on the occasion of his birthday, the Opposition benches, under Mr. Balfour's leadership, joined the Government's following in lustily cheering his appearance in the House. Such bitterness toward him as still exists is principally confined to the Unionists, who appear to be captured the House of Lords, and will be able to use their majority as a weapon against Mr. Gladstone's staying powers, but he fairly conquered the Commons when on his birthday, with his fine, spare, erect figure, sprightly step and kindly countenance, and resplendent with a bonnet in his buttonhole. No one could help shouting.

## A STATE OF SIEGE.

PALESTINE, Jan. 4.—Owing to the disturbed condition of Sicily and the fears that the *Fasci del Lavoro*, the powerful secret socialist society, might attempt to make further trouble, a state of siege has been proclaimed throughout the Island. Gen. Morro di Lariano, who was ordered to this city to take Sicily's place as a Prefect, has been endowed with full powers both civil and military.

ROME, Jan. 4.—The proclamation of the state of siege in Sicily has made a profound impression upon the people there.

## ANTI-TAX RIOTS.

### A Mob in Sicily Set Fire to Public Buildings and Defy the Soldiers.

### To Quiet the Populace the Council of Syracuse Remove the Wheat Tax.

ROME, Jan. 3.—Dispatches received from Sicily yesterday show that the anti-tax movement has made great progress in the province of Trapani. Several days ago the discontent in Campo Bello, a town of 8,000 inhabitants, near Trapani city, has become so threatening that the town council passed a resolution abolishing the wheat octroi. As a protest against this action the millers refused to reduce the price of flour, and the bakers announced an increase in the price of bread. When these measures became known, yesterday morning, about a thousand men and fifty or more women of the working class gathered from the town and surrounding country and began marching through the streets. The police who tried to disperse them were put to flight. The rioters set fire to all the public buildings except the town hall. From these buildings the fire spread to the mill and private houses. While a large district was in flames, the mob was led by officials alone to fight the owners of the mill and took it by storm. All the prisoners were liberated. The soldiers who had been confined in their barracks in the registration bureau were driven out by these angry men. A workman before the course of the mob was reported to the commander. When brought out to save from destruction what was left of the town, the soldiers were exceedingly forbearing. They forced back the mob slowly at the point of the bayonet and at no time in ruins. Nearly a third of the town is now in ruins. Many families that were burned out walked the streets all last night.

The whole town looks as if it had suffered from a bombardment. Among the buildings destroyed were the mill and every other building in the place. At Salemi, a town of 15,000 inhabitants, in the same district as Campo Bello, fires were started by anti-tax mobs before dark yesterday, and half a dozen buildings were burned by 9 o'clock. The fires were set by the rioters in several smaller towns also, and in the evening young districts seemed ablaze. The troops, although repeatedly provoked by the rioters in Salemi, did not fire, and several rioters were arrested after a struggle. A private was shot in the chest. At Pietra Perla, a town of 11,000 inhabitants, in the province of Palermo, an anti-tax mob set fire to public buildings, and tried to force the Governor to resign. The rioters, who had been called out to protect the town buildings, but were driven off by the troops after several stubborn fights, in which three rioters were killed and several more were wounded. The troops continued to guard the houses of the millers and bakeries and public buildings throughout the night.

The communal councillors of Syracuse have taken steps to quiet the populace by removing the wheat tax. The announcement of this policy, yesterday morning, was received with joy throughout the city, and the Governor was received with tremendous enthusiasm when he attended the theatre last evening. The dispatch from Trapani giving details of the riots in Campo Bello arrived during the cabinet council this morning. They were read first by Premier Crispien, who at once communicated them to his colleagues. All the ministers pronounced the situation in Sicily to be graver than at any previous period. Several ministers expressed the opinion that the communal councils, whose bad administration has caused the disorder, ought to be dissolved by the Government. The appeal of the military commander of the island to the patriotism of the people is considered in the ministry, as well as among the people at large, to be proof of the desperate condition of Sicilian affairs. A mass meeting of all classes in Palermo last evening appointed a deputation to report formally to the Government what reforms were most needed in Sicily, as the Government was but ill-informed by the officials representing it on the island.

## SEATTLE SMUGGLERS.

NANAIMO, Jan. 3.—(Special.)—Excise-officer Good returned early this morning from an unsuccessful search for a sloop supposed to have gone North from Seattle loaded with whiskey. Mr. Good went up as far as Euclataw Narrows on the steamer *Esperanza*, searching every possible hiding place and making careful inquiries on route. He could learn nothing of the boat he was in search of, but received information from hundreds of loggers that smuggling has been and is being carried on by American sloops on a most extensive scale. The loggers appeared to be in a state of great fear of the smugglers, who, they said, had threatened to kill any man giving information against them. At once Mr. Good found that one man had fully barricaded his bunk with his sacks filled with sand, and the smuggler had done so for fear of the smugglers returning. Two sloops in particular, one red, the other white, the former from Seattle, the latter from San Juan, have been very busy the past few months. It is learned that this white sloop only recently disposed of a cargo of whisky, principally to Indians. B. H. Smith, collector of customs here, will forward full particulars to the loggers begged of Mr. Good to make the state of affairs public, so that the Government might be induced to do something for their protection.

Rheumatism originates in the morbid condition of the blood. Hood's Sarsaparilla cures rheumatism. Get only Hood's.

## THE INDIAN PROBLEM.

### WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—The report that the committee on Indian affairs of the House had recommended that all Indian agencies in the State of Washington be abolished is without foundation. Even had such a report been made by the committee, it would have had no effect on the House, since the recommendation of the commissioner of Indian affairs would have far more weight. The publication of this report was the work of Congressman Holman, ex-watch-dog of the Treasury, who has been deposed from the place which he so long held as chairman of the committee on appropriations, but who still retains the chairmanship of the committee on Indian affairs. He is determined to make a record somehow, and he thinks he can do it by cutting off the few thousand dollars allotted to the men who take care of the Indians in the State of Washington. He bases his views, which are personal and have not yet received the sanction of any other member of the committee on Indian affairs, on a census report made not long ago by Prof. Donaldson, a special agent of the census bureau, on the condition of the North American Indians.

The theory advanced by Prof. Donaldson is that when the Indians have been allotted lands in severalty and have been admitted to citizenship they should be treated as other citizens of the state in which they reside, and all governmental restraint be removed from them. This is a very pretty theory, but any one who knows the condition of the Indian after he has received his allotment of land will readily see how impracticable it would be to put such a theory into practice. The Indian bureau, which has at its head men of practical experience in dealing with Indians, laughs at the idea of abolishing the Indian agencies. Assistant Commissioner Armstrong, who is nearly every case the Indians are worse off when they are received their lands in severalty than they were before, until they have learned to till the soil. Even then they have troubles about which they appeal to the government and it is much cheaper to maintain an agent to look after these matters than it would be to appoint a special commission to look up every individual complaint. It is safe to say that there will be no abolishing of Indian agencies in Washington this year.

## THE MIDWINTER FAIR.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 4.—Some idea of the number of people who may be expected in San Francisco on the official opening day can be gained from the fact that the Executive committee is constantly in receipt of letters from different States asking that the date of the fair be postponed, as they are unable to attend at the earliest possible moment, as parties of their friends are arranging to come in company to the opening and wish to know the day so that they may be ready. As has been already stated much will depend on the Midway Plaisance, which the foreign exhibitors have been unable to get properly installed. In all probability, however, Jan. 20 will be the day, though an authoritative announcement will be made at the earliest possible moment. M. J. Hennessey, who was connected with Barney Castle, in the Midway Plaisance, Chicago, has applied to the Executive Committee for space in which to erect an Irish Inn, a fac-simile reproduction of the "Coach and Horse," Merrion, County Dublin. This inn was used as a half-way house, between Kingstown and Dublin, over 50 years ago, before railways were introduced into the country. A suggestion has been made to the Executive committee that on one day each week during the exhibition, preferably on Sunday, the price of admission should be reduced to 25 cents, as it has been during the preliminary period. This suggestion is believed to be in the interests of the general laborer, to whom the charge of 50 cents for himself, his wife and possibly a family of several children, is quite an item of expense. This plan was adopted at the great London Exhibition of 1881. It was known in each week as "shilling day" and was eagerly taken advantage of by the laboring classes. At the same time the experiment proved to be highly satisfactory to the exhibition management. Another advantage gained was through the fact that the mechanic and artisans of the country were thus brought face to face with the educational features of the fair. The executive committee of the Midwinter Fair have taken the suggestion under consideration.

## ABERDEEN IN TORONTO.

TORONTO, Jan. 4.—(Special.)—The annual banquet of the Board of Trade to-night was a brilliant affair. The Governor-General, Lord Aberdeen, was present and made one of the most interesting speeches of the evening. The Dominion Cabinet was represented by Hon. Finance Minister Foster, Hon. Mackenzie Bowell, Minister of the Interior, Hon. Commerce, and Minister of the Interior, Lord Ayr, son of the Marquis of Dufferin, was a guest, while the United States was represented by Hon. G. Raines, president of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce. Among the other guests were Vice-President Shughnessy, of the Canadian Pacific railway, and several members of Parliament. Letters of regret were received from Premier Sir John Thompson and other notables.

## THE PRESS GANG.

LIMA, Peru, Jan. 4.—Government authorities are going to great lengths in their efforts to levy soldiers to serve in the regular army. Even boys and young and old men are seized in the streets by recruiting parties and dragged to the barracks, where they are forced to enter the ranks. The class of citizens who have been exempt from forced enlistment do not escape this time. Even national guardsmen are made to join the regular forces. It was impossible to bury some corpses which had been taken to the cemeteries for interment yesterday, as the grave-diggers employed at these places had been forcibly taken away from their work and without moment's warning hustled off to become soldiers.

## SCROFULA ENTIRELY CURED.

DEAR SIR,—I have suffered very much from scrofula and bad blood for seven years past. Six months ago I commenced using B.B.B. internally and externally and on new say that I am entirely cured and have been so for some time. To all sufferers I recommend B.B.B. as an excellent remedy for scrofula.

MISS A. R. BARTLEY, Pitou, N.S.

## CAPITAL NOTES.

### A New Match Manufacturing Co. to Be Established—Dealers in Adulterated Tinctures.

### Contemplated Changes in the Steamboat Law—Sentence on Manitoba's Boy Murderer Commuted.

(From our own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Jan. 4.—Twenty-seven chemists all over the country have been challenged for selling adulterated pharmaceutical tinctures.

The New Jersey Match Co. have decided to establish a branch here.

The death sentence passed on Hill, the Manitoba boy murderer, has been commuted to imprisonment for life.

The board of steamboat inspectors will meet here shortly to consider the proposed changes in the law.

OTTAWA, Jan. 5.—It is stated at the Fisheries department that if any canneries are established in American territory they place themselves in a position that they cannot obtain licenses, as such can only be granted to British subjects.

L. P. Hebert, the well known French-Canadian sculptor, now resident in Paris, is the successful competitor for the Sir John Macdonald statue to be erected in the Parliament grounds in this city. Fifty models were sent in, but the Government were unanimous in their choice. They did not know the name of the artist until after the selection had been made.

The revenue for the six months was \$18,815,709, a decrease of \$44,000; expenditure \$13,838,150—decrease, \$5,000.

## CANADIAN NEWS.

(Special to the Colonies.)

BRANSTON, Jan. 4.—John Hope, for the past twenty years manager of the Bow Park farm, died suddenly of apoplexy. He was one of the most successful breeders and was sought after by Americans as a judge at Western fairs.

TORONTO, Jan. 4.—The Earl of Aberdeen and the Earl of Ayr, eldest son of the Marquis of Dufferin, arrived in the city last night. The primary object of His Excellency's visit is to attend the Toronto Board of Trade annual banquet to-night.

TORONTO, Jan. 4.—Miss Helen Harding, of Milton, later of Devonshire, England, is suing her uncle, William Harding, of Markham township, for \$30,000 for alleged libel and slander.

HAMILTON, Jan. 4.—A writ has been served on F. A. Fields, of Waterdown, on behalf of Miss Annie L. Humes, of Ansonia, for \$3,000 damages for alleged breach of promise of marriage. Her fiancé had recently married a Hamilton girl.

HALIFAX, N.S., Jan. 4.—The Nova Scotia legislature was opened this afternoon by Lieut. Governor Daly with the usual ceremonies. There was a large attendance of spectators.

LONDON, Jan. 5.—It is announced that Nicholas Wray, M.P. for South Westworth, will shortly be appointed to the Westworth shrievalty, and Sheriff McKellar superannuated. The latter will be remembered as having been a member of Blake's administration in Ontario, and was specially noteworthy as an effective stump speaker when a member of the provincial Opposition.

QUEBEC, Jan. 5.—The Liberals of Quebec banqueted Hon. Wilfred Laurier at the Chateau Frontenac, last night. Over two hundred guests were present.

MONTREAL, Jan. 5.—There is a serious outbreak of diphtheria in Beauce county, and Dr. Beaudry, inspector for the Provincial Board of Health, has gone to assist in quelling it.

## A TREASURE FINDER.

VANCOUVER, Jan. 4.—(Special.)—A stranger has come to town with a strange machine. He says it will locate minerals two miles off. It resembles a box with a tin fog horn sticking out of one side. A test of the machine was made yesterday. Several curious citizens wrapped \$30 in silver in a handkerchief, and leaving the manipulator of the machine in town, went to Stanley park and hid the wealth.

Early in the afternoon, say those who were present, the tin horn indicator was pointed north towards the park, and at 4, as it was getting dark, the man and his machine were 600 yards from where the money was buried. Fearing that they would not be able to see it if they waited much longer, the committee took the stranger within 200 yards of the spot. The pointer of the "machine" was slowly moved in its circle when the operator suddenly stopped, while a faint rattling sound was heard inside the machine. As its inventor remarked: "When you hear that rattling sound it is the sign that I am in a direct line with the treasure." He then fastened himself with a rubber band and advanced cautiously, the machine continuing to rattle until a certain spot had been reached, when it ceased, for, as the inventor explained, I have my back to the treasure. He walked backward carefully until the demonstration inside the box recommenced, when the pointer was poked to the ground and the treasure dug up.

This is not a fancy picture; it is a recital of facts. Several men of accredited shrewdness believe in the machine, while Captain Van Bremer is interesting himself in having it perfected, so as to make the 100th attempt to locate the plated booty of the treasure island of the Pacific. Capt. Van Bremer is being promoted to the trip to Coos Island, with fair success.

## TO SHOOT THE PREMIER.

TORONTO, Jan. 4.—(Special.)—A crank has written a letter to the Evening News, in which he threatens to shoot Premier Sir John Thompson in case contractors McGreevy and Connelly, sentenced at Ottawa, two months ago to one year's imprisonment, are released from prison before the expiration of their sentence. Friends of the prisoners are working for their pardon on the ground of ill health.